



# Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
Subcommittee Recommendations



# Data Disaggregation

**Co-Chairs:** Sarah Min, Dr. Raynald Samoa, Dr. Robert Underwood

Members: Emily Chen, KaYing Yang

**Non-Commission Members:** Dr. Ninez Ponce, Dr. Joseph Keawe Kaholokula

**DFO:** Sarah Edwards

# Priority Issue Areas

- Ensure equitable data inclusion through data collection, analyzing and reporting, especially for underrepresented AA and NHPI populations.
- Facilitate improved access for community advocates to use federal agency data to more effectively inform policy changes
- Foster impactful three-way dialogue between communities, academic researchers, and federal agencies for more consistent reporting
- Pursue joint recommendations with other subcommittees including Health Equity, Language Access and Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate and Anti-Discrimination
- Call for the investigation of more accurate methods and strategies to capture ethno-cultural, language and multi-racial identity characteristics for AA and NHPI communities
- Highlight best practices from priority federal agencies for data disaggregation



# Presenters

- ❖ **U.S. Census Bureau:** Presented an overview on the U.S. Census Bureau's Office of Strategic Alliance, as well as their outreach strategies to reach AA and NHPI communities and facilitate data sharing.
  - ❖ **Anna Owens**, Deputy Chief, Office of Strategic Alliance, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - ❖ **Mayumi Hairston Escalante**, Partner Liaison, Office of Strategic Alliance, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - ❖ **Nicole Scanniello**, Assistant Division Chief for Communications, American Community Survey Office, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - ❖ **Bina “Kawe” Mossman-Saafi**, Branch Chief, Congressional Affairs Office, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce
  
- ❖ **Neil Weare, President and Founder, Equally American; Cara Brumfield, Associate Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law; Jae June Lee, Policy & Data Analyst, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law:** Presented on advancing data equity in the U.S. territories.



# Problem Statement:

Of the five U.S. Territories, only Puerto Rico receives more state-like treatment in the federal statistical system as a result of the 1992 Presidential Memorandum signed by President George H.W. Bush. The other U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—are not included in the federal statistical system. This disproportionately and unfairly excludes the people living in those territories from essential statistical data on housing, labor force participation, demographic changes and environmental challenges, which in turn excludes these people from visibility in policy making, political representation and \$1.5 trillion in federal funding that is issued based on this data.



# Recommendation:

The Commission recommends that the White House issue an Executive Order that gives the U.S Territories comparable treatment to Puerto Rico in the standards, policies, and norms in federal departments and agencies regarding the treatment of U.S. Territories in the statistical system.



### FIGURE 3. Puerto Rico Is Included in More Federal Statistical Datasets Compared To Other U.S. Territories

Comparison of the U.S. territories & their inclusion in select major federal statistical datasets

	American Samoa	Northern Mariana Islands	Puerto Rico	U.S. Virgin Islands	Guam
<b>Decennial Census</b>	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included
<b>American Community Survey</b>	Excluded*	Excluded*	Included	Excluded*	Excluded*
<b>Population Estimates</b>	Excluded	Excluded	Included	Excluded	Excluded
<b>Current Population Survey</b>	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded

**Note:** \* For the 2020 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau enumerated the residents of American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam through a separate operation called the “Island Area Census (IAC).” Though the four territories enumerated through the IAC are excluded from ACS data collection, the islands receive a census “long-form” questionnaire once a decade, similar to the ACS questionnaire.

**Source:** GCPI ESOI analysis of technical documentation from the Decennial Census, Population Estimates, and Current Population Survey, 2022. Available at [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/island-areas-tech-docs/demographic\\_profile/2020-iac-dpsf-technical-documentation.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/island-areas-tech-docs/demographic_profile/2020-iac-dpsf-technical-documentation.pdf); <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation.html>; and <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm#geo>.





## Discussion



# Language Access

**Co-Chairs:** Dr. Amy Agbayani, Victoria Huynh, Dr. Kimberly Chang

**Members:** Kerry Doi, Grace Huang, Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang

**Ex-Officio Member:** Laureen Laglagaron

**DFO:** Zeyen Wu

# Priority Issue Areas

- Improve language access in the justice system
- Increase public outreach (distributing language access information)
- Improve language access funding for health care (centers) to serve LEP families
- Prioritize and expand federal funding for AA and NHPI language access
- Build a pipeline of language translators and interpreters
- Translate federal agency communications into multiple languages
- Collect and analyze disaggregated information on specific languages within limited English proficient populations



# Presenters

- ❖ **Cannon Han, Senior Program Manager, Asian Pacific Institute for Gender Based Violence:** Provided information on language access challenges/barriers of AA and NHPI limited English proficient (LEP) communities, and recommendations based on implementation of Title VI in state and local government.
- ❖ **Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a, Director of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo; Member, Native Educator Education Committee of the National Indian Education Association; Board Member, World’s Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium:** Provided background on the history of Native Hawaiian language preservation and current language revitalization efforts, including programs, funding, and federal support for Native Hawaiian language promotion and preservation.



# Presenters Continued

- ❖ **Stanton K. Enomoto, Senior Program Director, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, U.S. Department of Interior:** Provided an overview on the relationship between Native Hawaiians and the federal government, and shared information about current federal efforts to incorporate Native Hawaiian language and perspectives into the Department of Interior's work.
- ❖ **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):** Provided background on the structure and basic operations of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and information about current interpretation and in-language options for 988.
  - **Monica Johnson**, Director, 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department Health and Human Services (HHS-SAMHSA)
  - **John Palmieri**, Deputy Director, 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary, HHS-SAMHSA
  - **James Wright**, Division Director, Crisis Operations, 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary, HHS-SAMHSA



# Problem Statement:

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline only offers in-language support in English and Spanish, which is not accessible to many limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in AA and NHPI communities.



# Recommendation:

The Commission recommends expanding the availability and access to 988 through providing language assistance services in multiple AA and NHPI languages, and expanding outreach to AA and NHPI communities:

- By September 2023, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) should translate 988 materials in webpages, social media, listserv announcements, and public outreach material into top AA and NHPI languages, consistent with the HHS Equity Action Plan, to address the inequities causing underutilization of the 988 Lifeline by AA and NHPI populations.
- By September 2023, SAMHSA should partner with federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, to focus on youth outreach in schools and colleges, as well as AA and NHPI community organizations and media, to promote the 988 service and the availability of mental health services.
- By 2024, SAMHSA should develop a national action plan with regional language specificity to expand the capacity of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline to provide 24/7 live in-language counseling services in the top AA and NHPI languages (in addition to interpretation services), and increasing resources to community-based AA and NHPI organizations that can serve languages of lesser diffusion.





## Discussion



# Health Equity

**Co-Chairs:** Teresita Batayola, Kerry Doi, Mia Ives-Ruble

**Members:** Victoria Huynh, Dr. Kimberly Chang, Michelle Ka'uhane,  
Dr. Kamal Kalsi, Ajay Bhutoria

**Non-Commission Member:** Dr. Quyen Ngo-Metzger

**DFO:** Caroline Goon

# Priority Issue Areas

- Combating domestic, intimate, physical and/or sexual violence
- Address mental health issues, including a focus on AA and NHPI anti-bullying resources
- Human trafficking
- COVID-19 and equitable response
- Environmental justice
- Challenges in accessing healthcare
- Data collection and disaggregation issues
- Healthcare workforce



# Presenters

- ❖ **Presentation from Mental Health Professionals:** Provided an overview on the landscape of mental health, bullying, suicide prevention, and other topics of concern to the AA and NHPI population.
  - **Amy Alexander, MD**, President & Founding Member, Association for College Psychiatry, President-Elect, Association of Women Psychiatrists, Director, Student Mental Health Fellowship, and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine
  - **Anne S. Li, MD, DFAACAP**, Director, Children's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, NYC Bellevue Hospital Center, and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, New York University Langone
  - **Warren Y.K. Ng, MD, MPH**, President, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical Director, Outpatient Behavioral Health, Director, Clinical Services Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center and New York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
  - **Donna Tran, MPH**, National President, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, Medical Student Rep, Association for College Psychiatry
  - **Maryam Zulfiqar, MD**, Student Mental Health Fellow, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine



# Presenters Continued

- ❖ **National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** Provided an overview of the current landscape of AA and NHPI health disparities/outcomes research, and highlighted barriers and challenges to supporting this work, including low funding rates for AA and NHPI research grants.
  - **Eliseo J. Perez-Stable**, MD, Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH
  - **Shobha Srinivasan**, PhD, Senior Advisor for Health Disparities, Office of the Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, NIH
  - **Yuling Hong**, MD, PhD, FAHA, Chief, Epidemiology Branch, National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute, NIH
  - **T. Jake Liang**, MD, Chief, Liver Diseases Branch, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIH
  - **Gabriel Lai**, PhD, Program Director, Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, NIH



# Presenters Continued

- ❖ **AAPI Youth Rising:** Provided information and perspective on the barriers and challenges facing AA and NHPI youth as it relates to mental health and other health inequities that affect AA and NHPI youth.
  - **Mina Fedor**, Founder and Executive Director, AAPI Youth Rising
  - **Jaslene Lai**, Founding Board Member and Website Manager, AAPI Youth Rising
  - **Ethan Su**, Board Member and Middle-School Representative, AAPI Youth Rising
- ❖ **Presentation from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** Provided an overview of the Healthy People 2030 Framework and how its mission is to promote, strengthen, and evaluate the nation's efforts to improve the health and well-being of all people
  - **Carter Blakey**, Deputy Director, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - **Emmeline Ochiai**, Senior Advisor, ODPHP/OASH/HHS



# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #1:** While the leading cause of death for AA and NHPI youth is suicide, AA and NHPI youth are some of the least likely to utilize mental health services.



# Recommendation #1:

- As part of the national AA and NHPI mental health summit, launch an AA and NHPI youth mental health campaign run by a collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Education (ED).
  - Campaign would include a community volunteer mentorship component similar to the Obama Administration’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, to help create healthy mental health environments that build resilient AA and NHPI youth.
  - Create an education campaign for AA and NHPI youth on culturally competent healthy mental health practices and take into account other parts of their identity, including generation, multi-racial, refugee, and adoptive.
  - Run ads partnering with AA and NHPI celebrities discussing the importance of claiming cultural and community identity, however defined, which are protective factors against racism, homophobia, and ableism, and their impacts on mental health. Publish on platforms utilized by AA and NHPI communities.
- Increase targeted funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research on culturally competent effective treatments and approaches for AA and NHPI individuals with mental health symptoms.
- Expand Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) minority fellowship programs and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) loan repayment programs to target AA and NHPI behavioral health trainees and professionals.





## Discussion

# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #2:** There is a need to raise awareness, evaluate, and address health disparities, such as heart disease and obesity, in AA and NHPI sub-groups living in the United States, specifically with a focus on children and youth. There is limited data from research studies that examine treatment patterns and outcomes in Asian American sub-groups, such as South Asians, and a lack of national education campaigns that are targeted at AA and NHPI communities.



## ❖ Recommendation #2:

The Commission recommends the establishment of national programs by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education (ED) to raise awareness, evaluate, and address health disparities, such as heart disease and obesity, in AA and NHPI sub-groups living in the United States, specifically with a focus on children and youth.

- Development of obesity monitoring and intervention programs by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that focuses on AA and NHPI children and youth to dispel misconceptions and educate AA and NHPI communities on how to stay healthy and reduce the impact of chronic diseases using culturally relevant materials, resources, and languages.
- Creation of a centralized database containing research and data as well as nutritional options related to AA and NHPI communities that are affected by heart disease and obesity, such as South Asians.



## ❖ Recommendation #2 Continued:

- Work with SAMHSA, HRSA, HHS Office of Minority Health (HHS OMH), and CMS to increase training, technical assistance, and resources for healthcare providers to improve cultural competency and language barriers and ensure that the needs of AA and NHPI patients are being met.
- Ensure agency-wide collaboration between HHS and ED to create and disseminate relevant educational information via community outreach in multiple AA and NHPI languages. The resources developed should be implemented in school health curriculums and be targeted to AA and NHPI children and youth on topics such as the detrimental effects of high sugar consumption, and education on how to read food nutrition labels.
- Collaborate with FQHCs (Federally Qualified Health Centers), community, and patient stakeholders.





## Discussion

# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #3:** Professional/Certified Interpreters provide better health outcomes than ad hoc interpreters (e.g., family members and bilingual, not certified staff).



# Recommendation #3:

By 2024, for AA and NHPI communities, as well as other limited English proficient (LEP) populations, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) should collect language access data from federally-funded community health centers (CHC). HRSA should develop measures for reporting in the Uniform Data System (UDS) on percentages and number of patients with preferred languages other than English, including data on the languages spoken; the percent and number of patients who are LEP; and the percent and number of visits when professional/certified interpreters were utilized for LEP patients, excluding the utilization of family members as interpreters.

HHS should permanently require the collection of language access data beyond the May 11, 2023 expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration.





## Discussion



# Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, Anti-Discrimination

**Co-Chairs:** Luisa Blue, Dr. Kamal Kalsi

**Members:** Emily Chen, Grace Huang, Daniel Dae Kim, Naheed Qureshi,  
Smita Shah

**Non-Commission Member:** Madihha Ahussain

**DFO:** Zeyen Wu

# Priority Issue Areas

- Supporting leadership opportunities for AA and NHPI individuals in government, business, non-profit, and media
- Education about AA and NHPI communities
- Standardizing hate crimes and hate incident definitions
- Increasing resources for victims
- Preventing gun violence targeting AA and NHPI communities
- Increasing federal transparency on data regarding domestic terrorism and white supremacist organizations
- Alternative means of reporting hate crimes or hate incidents
- Improving federal data collection of hate crimes and hate incidents
- Prevention of anti-Asian hate in all spheres of life, including media, business, education, government and online forums



# Presenters

- ❖ **Mary McCord, Executive Director, Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP), Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center:** Provided an overview about hate and white supremacist ideology, as well as specific commentary about the context of hate incidents against AA and NHPI communities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ **Kate Peterson, Director of State Victim Resource Division, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice; Jasmine D’Addario-Fobian, Director of Discretionary Programs Division, OVC, U.S. Department of Justice:** Provided an overview of the operations of OVC, including sources of funds, programs, grantees, and other information. The speakers also provided information about AA and NHPI-serving grantees.
- ❖ **Cynthia Deitle, former FBI Special Agent, and former Director, Civil Rights Reform, Matthew Shepard Foundation:** Provided information about the investigatory operations and outreach mechanisms of the FBI and local law enforcement as it pertains to communities vulnerable to hate incidents, as well as ideas and initiatives to improve hate crimes reporting and tracking.
- ❖ **Chris Hsiung, Undersheriff, San Mateo County, California:** Provided more information about hate crimes investigations and reporting issues from a law enforcement perspective.



# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #1:** The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) Commission is established via Executive Order 14031. Since its inception during this current administration, it has been staffed by a number of part time and temporary personnel that sometimes rotate through for assignments as short as three months. This undermines the President's Advisory Commission's (Commission) ability to execute longer term goals, degrades institutional memory, and limits the effectiveness of our Commission's efforts as it must constantly work through the churn of new staff.



# Recommendation #1:

The federal government should establish a permanent home agency with permanent career and political staff (FTEs), and continue to include ongoing funding in the President's budget to support the work of WHIAANHPI and the President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs.





## Discussion

# Problem Statements:

❖ **Problem Statement #2:** While there has been increased attention on the harm and trauma that AA and NHPI community members continue to face from hate-crimes and other interpersonal violence, many AA and NHPI community members face barriers accessing culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services and supports. In addition, AA and NHPI culturally specific organizations face challenges accessing funding to provide such services, in part due to unfamiliarity with the funding structures imposed by State and territorial funding formulas, as well as minimal guidance or support provided to State and territorial grantees about how to reach, much less fund, trusted AA and NHPI community organizations.



## Recommendation #2:

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in the Department of Justice should increase the availability of, and accessibility of victim services for AA and NHPI crime victims, including victims of bias and hate incidents. This includes addressing barriers to funding for culturally specific organizations that are trusted in AA and NHPI communities by: (1) investing in increased outreach, both by OVC and grantee States and territories to culturally specific organizations about funding opportunities, (2) modifying OVC's funding agreements with States and Territories to increase the pass-through funds granted to culturally specific organizations serving AA and NHPIs, other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and other disabled BIPOC organizations (3) supporting OVC grantees and subgrantees to strengthen the cultural relevance of programs and linguistic capacity to serve AA and NHPI communities.





## Discussion



# Economic Equity

**Co-Chairs:** Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang, Smita Shah

**Members:** Luisa Blue, Dr. Kimberly Chang, Kerry Doi, Michelle Ka'uhane, Kevin Kim, Ai-jen Poo

**DFO:** Caroline Goon

# 2023 WHIAANHPI Regional Economic Summits

- ❖ Spurred by a May 2022 recommendation from the Economic Equity Subcommittee.
- ❖ To connect AA and NHPI community members directly with federal leaders and resources.
- ❖ Events are held in collaboration with U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, the National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, and state/local officials.





# Priority Issue Areas

## **Opportunities for Small Businesses**

- Increasing opportunities for small business, including exports
- Opportunities for small and community banks to participate in federal programs

## **Access to Job Training and Workforce Development**

- Worker access to childcare, paid leave, and long-term care across all industries
- Living wages, access to benefits, and training opportunities
- Jobs of the future and workforce development

## **Opportunities for AA and NHPI Workers**

- Addressing income inequality and wage gap for AA and NHPI women
- Access and awareness around grants, contracts, and loans

## **Compliance & Regulations**

- Review compliance and regulations related to workforce development and apprenticeship programs
- Regulations regarding small businesses, job opportunities, and workforce development, should be inclusive of AA and NHPI issues.



# Presenters

- ❖ **Summer Lee Haunani Sylva, Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI):** Provided an overview of DOI's initiatives for the Native Hawaiian community, including its draft consultation policy and procedures, Hawaiian Homes Commission Act oversight, and native language preservation efforts.
- ❖ **Exodie C. Roe, III, Associate Administrator for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), General Services Administration (GSA); Paul Martin, Director, IT Services Contract Operations Division, GSA; Carena Jackson, Acting Director, Small Business Compliance and Goaling Division, OSDBU, GSA:** Provided an overview of the GSA contracting and procurement process, including the selection, awards, and post-awards process, and data related to AA and NHPIs.
- ❖ **Arun Venkataraman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets, and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration:** Provided an overview of the resources available to small businesses, and information related to the increase of global exports from the U.S.
- ❖ **William W. Beach, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor:** Provided an overview of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and shared relevant data regarding industries that AA and NHPI workers are concentrated in, including low-wage industries.



# Problem Statement:

- ❖ AA and NHPI small businesses face barriers in accessing international markets, limiting their potential for growth and expansion. As a result, they miss out on the opportunities and benefits of exporting their products and services.



# Recommendation:

By June 30, 2024, the federal government should provide support and resources to AA and NHPI small businesses to help them expand their export operations in order to help reduce U.S. import/export trade imbalance. In addition, the steps below will help to bring an increasing number of AA and NHPI small businesses into the export marketplace.

- Increase awareness of tools and resources available through the Commerce Department, the United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA), Export-Import Bank of the U.S., and the Small Business Administration (SBA) for small AA and NHPI-owned businesses looking to expand their exports via targeted outreach sessions with AA and NHPI small businesses. Increase outreach to AA and NHPI communities and organizations to raise awareness of the benefits of exporting for small businesses.
- Gather and share data on export demands from other countries with AA and NHPI small businesses. Establish measurements to track if AA and NHPI small businesses are eligible, matched and benefiting.
- Provide training, educational programs, and language assistance to AA and NHPI small business owners on how to effectively navigate the export process and identify potential international markets for their products and services.



# Recommendation continued:

- Utilize U.S. consulates and embassies to provide AA and NHPI small businesses with global market outreach, including matchmaking and networking opportunities with foreign buyers and distributors. Develop targeted outreach programs to connect small AA and NHPI-owned businesses with potential international buyers and partners.
- Increase funding for market research and trade missions to help small AA and NHPI-owned businesses identify new export opportunities. Invest in trade promotion and export assistance programs that specifically target small AA and NHPI-owned businesses. Offer grants and low-interest loans to small AA and NHPI-owned businesses to help them invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to expand their exports.
- Provide technical assistance to small AA and NHPI-owned businesses to help them comply with international trade regulations and standards.
- Facilitate trade missions and delegations to key international markets to provide AA and NHPI small businesses with the opportunity to showcase their products and services to potential buyers and partners.





## Discussion



# Immigration and Citizenship Status

**Co-Chairs:** Grace Huang, KaYing Yang

**Members:** Dr. Amy Agbayani, Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang, Dr. Robert Underwood

**Ex-Officio Member:** Carol Wu, Senior Policy Advisor, Immigration Section, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security

**DFO:** Sarah Edwards

# Priority Issue Areas

- Strengthening asylum processes
- Universal legal representation for individuals facing removal
- Protection for undocumented individuals
- Improving language access for individuals at risk of, or facing immigration proceedings, including detained individuals
- Reducing the immigration court backlog
- Reducing immigration-based visa backlog
- Community-based alternatives to immigration detention
- Visiting impact of CARRP (Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program) on Immigration Status



# Presenters

- ❖ **Matt Adams, Legal Director, Northwest Immigration Rights Project:** Presented an overview on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP), including the factors used to make determinations and recommendations to improve the process.
- ❖ **Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. State Department:** Presented on the processing of immigrant visas, including family-based, employment-based, and diversity visas.
- ❖ **Mary Cheng, Deputy Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ); Lauren Alder Reid, Assistant Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, DOJ:** Presented on language access in immigration courts, including how current policies and resources impact decision making for limited English proficient or non-English speakers.



# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #1:** Despite the dire consequences of deportation on directly impacted Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals, families, and communities, individuals subject to removal are not provided with court-appointed counsel, who can greatly influence the outcome of immigration cases.



# Recommendation #1:

The Commission recommends that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expand access to legal representation for those in removal proceedings through grants to non-profit and other legal aid organizations, with the purpose of providing universal legal representation by taking the following steps:

- The President's annual budget request to Congress for FY 2025 and future years should include allocations to support programs to provide indigent legal representation for individuals in immigration court proceedings.
- The Administration should explore what funds are available within DHS, DOJ, and other agencies that could be used to support increasing indigent legal representation (i.e., appointed counsel) in immigration proceedings in all jurisdictions, including at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).





## Discussion

# Problem Statements:

- ❖ **Problem Statement #2:** Individuals who have been residing in the United States on H1-B visas face hardship and disruption as job loss results in the risk of losing their ability to remain in the United States if they are unable to find new employer sponsors within 60 days of being laid off. Burdensome H1-B visa restrictions and lengthy processes make it challenging for H1-B visa holders to complete the necessary processes within 60 days.



## **Recommendation #2:**

The Commission recommends that the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS USCIS) extend the grace period for H1-B workers from 60 days to 180 days to allow those who have lost their jobs to find a new sponsor, without threatening their status or the status of their families.





## Discussion